

Message Text

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64

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 2351

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, CA

TAGS: CANADIAN DEFENSE STRUCTURE REVIEW

REF: USNATO 3362

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AS CANADIANS PROCEED WITH THEIR "DEFENSE REVIEW" AND AS US AND GOC ABOUT TO CONSULT ON NATO ASPECTS OF THAT REVIEW, EMBASSY CONCURS FULLY WITH USNATO'S 3362 AND SUGGESTS THAT USG UNDERTAKE A SIMILAR BUT MORE MODEST REVIEW OF ITS DEFENSE RELATIONS WITH CANADA TO SEE IF CANADA COULD BE ENCOURAGED TO PAY MORE IN JOINT MILITARY VENTURES. WHEN A PROJECT OR PROGRAM IS CLEARLY NOT WARRANTED SOLELY ON THE BASIS OF US NATIONAL INTERESTS, THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT US UNDERTAKE TO NEGOTIATE NEW ARRANGEMENTS TO INCREASE CANADIAN FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO SUCH PROJECTS. END SUMMARY

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2. CANADIAN DEFENSE REVIEW IS TAKING PLACE AT A TIME WHEN NEW PRESSURES ARE BEING PUT UPON CANADIANS TO BE SOMEWHAT MORE RESPONSIVE TO DEMANDS FOR INCREASED MILITARY EXPENDITURES. PRIMIN TRUDEAU, IT IS NO SECRET, DISLIKES MILITARISM AND IF HE COULD HAVE HIS WAY ENTIRELY WOULD PROBABLY REDUCE THE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT IN CANADA AND DIVIDE THE FUNDS SAVED TO DOMESTIC PROJECTS CLOSER TO HIS HEART, SUCH AS FRENCH LANGUAGE FOR CIVIL SERVANTS, SOCIAL PROGRAMS, AND THE LIKE. HOWEVER, TRUDEAU IS ALSO VERY MUCH A REALIST AND PROBABLY RECOGNIZES THAT THE PROPOSALS FOR INCREASED MILITARY EXPENDITURES ARE NOT ENTIRELY UNWARRANTED. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST RECENTLY HAVE BEEN THE POSSIBLE THREAT TO CANADA'S SOVEREIGNTY FROM "PEACEFUL" INTRUSIONS INTO AREAS CLAIMED OR DESIRED BY CANADA AND CANADA'S INTEREST IN DIVERSIFYING ITS FOREIGN RELATIONS AND FORGOING A CONTRACTUAL LINK WITH THE EC. CANADA HAS TAKEN A NATIONALISTIC STANCE AT THE LOS CONFERENCE AND IN INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES CONFERENCES BUT DEFENSE CRITICS HAVE BEEN QUICK TO POINT OUT THAT CANADA LACKS THE POWER TO ENFORCE ITS OWN CLAIMS. IN ADDITION, CANADA IS MADE UNEASY BY THE BELIEF THAT THE US MAY EVENTUALLY HAVE ICE BREAKERS MORE POWERFUL THAN CANADA'S AND THAT THE US AND OBVIOUSLY THE USSR MIGHT BE ABLE TO GO THROUGH CANADA'S NORTHERN PASSAGES MORE EASILY THAN CANADIANS THEMSELVES.

3. IT IS EMBASSY'S BELIEF THAT IT IS PROPITIOUS TIME FOR USG TO REVIEW ITS POLITICAL/MILITARY GOALS IN CANADA, TO DECIDE HOW MUCH THE US SHOULD PAY TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS, AND TO ASK ITSELF WHETHER IT HAS ANY LEVERAGE TO MAKE CANADA SHOULDER MORE OF THE JOINT DEFENSE BURDEN. IF NOT, IS THERE A "DEFENSE POLICY REVIEW" THAT THE US CAN ENGAGE IN ON ITS OWN VIS-A-VIS CANADA TO DETERMINE WHETHER ITS OWN NATIONAL INTEREST MIGHT BE BETTER SERVED THAN IT IS BY PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS. THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL RECENT INSTANCES OF SUCH SUCCESSFUL ENDEAVORS BY THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT: ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY HAS MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE CNEWS COMMUNICATIONS LINK TO BE TERMINATED, AND ON MAY 28 THE USAF INFORMED THE GOC THAT GOOSEBAY AIR BASE IS NO LONGER ESSENTIAL TO US INTERESTS.

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RM THE EMBASSY MIGHT SUGGEST SEVERAL OTHER AREAS FOR SUCH REVIEW. THE DEW LINE WOULD SEEM TO BE AN OBVIOUS ONE. THE CANADIANS CLEARLY BENEFIT ENORMOUSLY FROM THESE INSTALLATIONS FOR SURVEILLANCE OF THEIR NORTHERN TERRITORIES. IN CANADIAN TESTIMONY ON THE RENEWAL OF NORAD, THE CANADIANS MADE THE POINT THAT THEY ARE GETTING FAR MORE OUT OF THE AGREEMENT THAN THEY ARE PUTTING IN.

(THE CANADIAN PRESS TENDS TO AGREE WITH THIS EVALUATION; THE JUNE 3 TORONTO STAR PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE WHICH CLEARLY STRESSES HOW MUCH LARGER THE US CONTRIBUTION IS COMPARATIVELY AND CONCLUDES THAT IN THE EVENT OF A BREAK-UP OF NORAD"... THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT MAY FIND THAT IT HAS TO SPEND A LOT OF MONEY BEFORE THE DIVORCE IS FINAL.")

5. AS THE US DEVELOPS THE AWACS, IT OCCURS TO THE EMBASSY THAT A SIZEABLE FINANCIAL R&D CONTRIBUTION FROM CANADA FOR A PROJECT WHICH WILL PROVIDE CIVIL AND MILITARY SURVEILLANCE OF AIR SPACE IN BOTH COUNTRIES WOULD CERTAINLY SEEM IN ORDER.

6. OTHER FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS MIGHT BEAR REVIEW-- SOME OF MINOR SIGNIFICANCE BUT PERHAPS OF IMPORTANCE SYMBOLICALLY. CANADA HAS OWED THE US A RESPONSE TO A US INITIATIVE ON THE FLIN FLON SEISMOGRAPHIC STATION FOR A YEAR, WHILE DEFENCE MINISTER RICHARDSON DALLIES OVER THE QUESTION OF THE IMPACT OF FLIN FLON ON HIS HOME DISTRICT. COULD IT NOT BE HANDED OVER TO THE CANADIANS?

7. IN ANY CASE, IT MIGHT BE WORTH THE EFFORT, WHILE CANADA IS STILL IN THE PROCESS OF ITS CURRENT DEFENSE REVIEW AND WILLING TO CONSULT ABOUT IT, FOR THE US TO CONDUCT ITS OWN REVIEW OF DEFENSE FACILITIES IN CANADA, WHOSE COST IS BORNE WHOLLY OR IN PART BY THE US, TO DETERMINE WHAT SHOULD BE A REASONABLE SHARING BY CANADIANS OF THOSE COSTS. THE PRESENTATION TO THE GOC OF THE RESULTS OF SUCH A STUDY, PARTICULARLY WHERE THE RESULTS SUGGEST THAT IT IS NOT WORTH IT FOR THE US TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE ACTIVITIES IF WE MUST BEAR AN UNJUSTIFIABLY LARGE SHARE OF THE COSTS, MIGHT STIMULATE SOME USEFUL THINKING

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ON THE CANADIAN SIDE. IT MIGHT AT LEAST MAKE THE FORTHCOMING CONSULTATIONS LESS ONE-SIDED AND SERVE TO REMIND THE GOC THAT IT CAN EASILY CONTRIBUTE A GOOD DEAL MORE TO THE DEFENSE OF THE WEST, PARTICULARLY AT A TIME WHEN IT IS ACTIVELY PURSUING "OPTION III" IN ITS FOREIGN POLICY (DIVERSIFICATION OF ITS INTERESTS AND LESSENING OF ITS DEPENDENCE ON THE US).

8. THE DEFENSE ATTACHE CONCURS WITH THE CONTENTS OF THIS MESSAGE.

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